

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A battery-powered device comprising:
a battery compartment with positive and negative contacts disposed therein; and
~~means for minimizing battery to battery contact resistance.~~
means for rupturing an insulating contaminant layer disposed on portions of at least one terminal of at least one battery installed in the battery compartment.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 28, ~~claim 29~~, wherein the rupturing means comprises:

a battery case constructed such that a curved edge of the terminal of a first installed battery is in contact with a planar terminal surface of an abutting second installed battery or an abutting device contact; and

means for urging the first installed battery toward the second installed battery or the device contact such that the curved edge of the terminal applies a pressure sufficient to rupture the insulating contaminant layer disposed on the surface of the abutting terminal of the second installed battery or abutting device contact.

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the means for urging the installed batteries toward each other comprises:

at least one device contact disposed in the battery case that applies a spring force along the longitudinal axis of the batteries when the batteries are in their installed position in the battery compartment.

32. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 28, ~~claim 29~~, wherein the rupturing means comprises:

a coiled spring battery contact disposed at one end of the battery compartment, the contact comprising a plurality of concentric windings with a terminal contact point on the upper end turn thereof, the terminal contact point configured to contact an abutting battery terminal surface, the coiled spring contact applying a spring force to an installed battery sufficient to cause the terminal contact point to rupture an insulating contaminant layer on the abutting battery terminal surface.

33. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 28, wherein the ~~minimizing~~ rupturing means comprises:

means for removing an insulating contaminant layer disposed on the portions of ~~the~~ said battery terminals that contact ~~each other~~ an abutting terminal.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 33, wherein the removing means comprises:

a battery case constructed such that a curved edge of the terminal of a first installed battery is in contact with a planar terminal surface of an abutting second installed battery or an abutting device contact; and

means for imparting a relative lateral motion between the adjacent batteries and/or between the first installed battery and the device contact when the batteries are installed in the battery compartment, wherein such lateral movement is sufficient to remove at least a portion of the insulating contaminant layer on the surface of the abutting battery terminal or device contact.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, wherein the means for imparting a relative lateral motion comprises:

a coiled spring battery contact comprising a plurality of concentric windings defining an axis of rotation and having a terminal contact point eccentrically located on an upper end turn of the concentric windings, wherein during battery installation the coiled spring contact compresses to cause the terminal contact point to laterally shift in the direction of eccentricity to provide a contact wiping motion against the abutting battery terminal surface with a pressure sufficient to remove the contaminant layer from the terminal surface.

36. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~claim 33~~ claim 34, wherein the means for imparting a relative lateral motion comprises:

the battery compartment configured such that a distance between device contacts disposed on opposing ends of the battery compartment is less than the length of the serially aligned batteries, wherein a spring force applied by the device contacts to compress the batteries against each other can be overcome by a force applied to a partially installed second battery that causes a relative lateral movement between the second battery and a previously installed first battery.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the battery compartment is implemented in a hand-held scanner.

38. - 42. (Cancelled)